

Great Tools for the Purpose Driven Life

“The CODE” Series – Part 03

A 15 Minute Study Guide- Read Colossians 4:2-6

1. According to verses 2-4, what attributes should characterize our prayer life?
2. The Apostle Paul inserts a personal request for himself in verses 3-4. What does this say to us about doing ministry and carrying out God’s purpose for our life?
3. Verses 5-6 states we are to live wisely with grace. What are some of the biggest mistakes that Christians make that lead unbelievers to shun or dismiss the gospel?

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A Fuller Study Guide-

Connect question: What do you have to continually remind yourself to do?

Introduction: Like many others, God has blessed me with the gift of going on several missions trip, both here in the states and on foreign fields. I find that with each trip there is a purpose, some preparation to be made, and necessities or tools to take in order to accomplish the purpose. This may include passports, vaccinations, certain clothing, food, teaching supplies, and construction tools, etc. Each trip held some things in common and some things were unique to the field and the mission’s purpose.

When we read the Bible, we soon learn that God has determined a life purpose for all of us. As we discover our purpose, we will find one of the greatest areas of fulfillment is found in the life of the church as we worship, fellowship, evangelize, disciple, and minister to one another – the five purposes of the church.

How has God uniquely gifted you for ministry?

A favorite quote of mine is *“Use the right tool for the right job”*. Using the “right tools” as we live a purpose driven life is essential to greater success as well. In our text below, the Apostle Paul instructs the believers on three essential tools for our toolbox.

Colossians 4:2-6

Col 4:2 Devote yourselves to prayer with an alert mind and a thankful heart.

Col 4:3 Pray for us, too, that God will give us many opportunities to speak about His mysterious plan concerning Christ. That is why I am here in chains.

Col 4:4 Pray that I will proclaim this message as clearly as I should.

Col 4:5 Live wisely among those who are not believers, and make the most of every opportunity.

Col 4:6 Let your conversation be gracious and attractive so that you will have the right response for everyone.

The three tools mentioned in our text are the following:

1. Have a devoted prayer life
2. Develop a partnership with others

3. Be wise and gracious to all (believers and unbelievers)

Lets discuss each one:

What does it mean, practically, to be devoted to prayer? What practices have you found helpful in seeking to be devoted to prayer?

How can you be assured that you pray with “an alert mind” and “a thankful heart”.

Discuss how prayer is a helpful tool when participating in the five purposes of the church listed above.

In what way is Paul’s request in verses 3-4 more than just an invitation to pray?

How can others help you to live out your purpose in life?

Who are your strategic ministry partners and how do you benefit from one another?

What does it mean to live wisely among unbelievers? What are practical ways of living wisely?

In what way is God challenging you most to live a life that is wise in the way you act toward outsiders?

Paul admonishes us to make the most of every opportunity. In what ways do we squander the opportunity before us?

Homework:

In what ways has God challenged you to live a more purpose driven life?

Of the three tools necessary for success in carrying out our purpose, which one is most challenging for you? Can you commit to one action step that will strengthen the grip of this tool in your hands?